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Let's Do Our Own Job

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It could be that Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, is over-optimistic when he says that the rise of mass education in Russia poses a threat to the Soviet regime. His feeling is that when more and more Russian young people learn about the outside world—about life in America, for instance—the Kremlin bosses will be sorry that they ever set out to improve educational standards.

However, much depends on whether there are simultaneous changes for the better in the living conditions of Russian workers. If Soviet policy were revised to give the average USSR citizen more of the good things of life with plenty of propaganda drum-beating, there is a question whether many young people would stray toward the Western philosophy.

Meanwhile, as Mr. Dulles himself reminds us, we should note that even with a school system vastly inferior to ours, Russia will turn out, this year, about 120,000 graduates in the sciences and engineering as against our 70,000. The figures are impressive.

The atomic era will demand many scientific and technological experts. Russia is producing more of them than we are. Rather than dream smugly of the time when Russian students may know enough to rebel against the Communistic system, we should be devoting more effort to improving our own educational processes—and to turning out more young people who, with a broad base of general knowledge, are thoroughly trained along scientific and technological lines.